

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /104 W

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O P 080130Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1478

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

UNCLAS USUN 5968

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: FOURTH COMMITTEE: UK STATEMENT ON
SOUTHERN RHODESIA

1. SUMMARY: UK REPRESENTATIVE (HEAD OF CHANCERY THOMAS)
DELIVERED STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 7.
HE REVIEWED THE EVENTS OF THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS AND REITERATED UK
PRECONDITIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN QUESTION. HE
REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS NOT DESIGNED TO
SOLVE ALL OF RHODESIA'S PROBLEMS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, BUT "TO
SET UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO SEE RHODESIA THROUGH A
DIFFICULT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD." END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE OUTSET OF HIS STATEMENT, UK REP STATED THAT UK
"WHOLEHEARTEDLY" SUPPORTED THE MAINTENANCE OF SANCTIONS ON
RHODESIA "UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE ILLEGAL REGIME HAS GIVEN
WAY TO AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT" THAT WILL LEAD THE COUNTRY TO
INDEPENDENCE.

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3. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO REVIEW THE PAST SUMMER'S EVENTS

AND ACKNOWLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE WHICH DR. KISSINGER PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT AN ABRUPT CHANGE OF EVENTS.

4. UK REP REPEATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PRECONDITIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN QUESTION: "FIRST, ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE; SECOND, ELECTIONS FOR MAJORITY RULE TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO TWO YEARS; THIRD, AGREEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INDEPENDENCE BEFORE MAJORITY RULE, AND FOURTH, NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE NOT LONG DRAWN OUT, AND ASSURANCES THAT THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE ORDERLY".

5. PROCEEDING TO A REVIEW OF EVENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 24, HE REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THAT IT WAS DECIDED AT AN EARLY STAGE TO INITIATE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE BY FIXING ATTENTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE. THEIR EFFORTS ON THIS POINT WERE REWARDED WHEN, ON NOVEMBER 28, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FIXED MARCH 1, 1978 AS THE LATEST DATE BY WHICH RHODESIA WOULD BECOME INDEPENDENT.

6. UK REP THEN INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOME "INFORMAL MEETINGS" ON THE SUBJECT OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH "THOSE DELEGATIONS WHO HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ADDRESS IT", ADDING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "FOUR WORKING SESSIONS ATTENDED BY ALL DELEGATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, AS WELL AS SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS."

7. HE REMINDED THE COMMITTEE THAT THE UK NEVER EXERCISED FULL COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RHODESIA, BUT THAT IT REGARDED ITSELF "AS RESPONSIBLE FOR RHODESIA'S ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE UNDER MAJORITY RULE".

8. EMPHASIZING THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED AT GENEVA MUST COMMAND AS MUCH SUPPORT WITHIN RHODESIA AS POSSIBLE, HE DECLARED THAT THE UK DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY PARTICULAR PARTY OR GROUP WITHIN RHODESIA. THE TEST OF ANY GROUP'S, FOLLOWING WILL BE "AT THE BALLOT BOX".

9. UK REP STATED THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS NOT INTENDED
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TO SETTLE ALL OF RHODESIA'S PROBLEMS, BUT TO "SET UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO SEE RHODESIA THROUGH A DIFFICULT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD" IN WHICH A MINORITY GOVERNMENT WILL BE REPLACED BY ONE THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THE MAJORITY.

10. TURNING TO THE BRITISH ROLE IN RHODESIA, HE REITERATED THAT THE UK "HAS FIRMLY RULED OUT A BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN RHODESIA DURING THE TRANSITIONAL

PERIOD, OR A NEW BRITISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT".

11. UK REP CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS NOW AT A CRUCIAL STAGE AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT STOOD READY "TO ASSUME WHATEVER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY WE SEE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE BY MARCH 1978 OR EARLIER."

12. WE ARE POUCHING FULL TEXT TO DEPARTMENT (IO/UNP - TEFFT).

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